

Great food, shopping and entertainment can be found right here in Marion. Whether you're the outdoorsy type, an art lover, or a little bit of both, there's so much to do and see right here in Marion. Make it a day or stay all weekend, follow these itineraries to explore what

Marion has to offer.

DAYcation

Grab your friends for a day of fun.

Discover Uptown

Park in a convenient, free spot near Uptown and spend the day strolling through our beautiful shops and enjoying one-of-a-kind restaurants.

- 1 Visit charming coffee shops** | Start your day off right at the **Uptown Coffee Company***, featuring donuts from local favorite, **Donutland**, or head over to **West End Diner*** for brunch and mimosas.
- 2 Score some treasures** | Uptown Marion is the ideal place to freshen up your wardrobe. Find the latest in fashion at **Designs by Michele, Di Moda** or **JOY boutiques**. Unique treasures for the home can be found at **SCOUT of Marion**. Make your home feel cheerful with specialty flowers from **Roots In Bloom** or **Lily & Rose Floral Studio**, or browse for something new to read at **Swamp Fox Bookstore**.
- 3 Satisfy your appetite** | The food options in Marion are endless! Grab a burger – and delicious fries – at **Short's Burger & Shine**, or slow down for a home-cooked meal at **West End Diner*** (which features an artisan village). If you decide to head to **Goldfinch Tap + Eatery**, don't miss the delicious brussels sprouts. **Hip-Stir**, a brand-new restaurant opening summer 2021, will feature creative cuisine and snazzy drink offerings.

- 4 Up your grilling game** | Whether you're starting your journey to grilling glory or you're already an absolute master of the open flame, a visit to **The Grill Works** is a must anytime you're in the area. Highly regarded as the go-to grill shop in the area, you'll find a wide variety of grill products from many major brands, hundreds of rubs and sauces to choose from, and even specialized cooking classes.

- 5 Take in a play and enjoy more delicious food** | Be sure to check out the **Giving Tree Theater** schedule so you can catch a local theatre production in an intimate environment, complete with cozy sofas. Before the show, grab some pizza at the one and only **Zoey's Pizzeria**. Or, if you're craving some delicious dessert, check out the brand-new **Frydae** for some sundaes (with fries on the side, if that's your thing!)

- 6 Don't forget after-dinner drinks** | Right down the street, you'll find **Brick Alley** or **Uptown Snug**, where you can sit by the fireplace or out on the patio to cap off a great day. The patio seating is nestled overlooking the **Uptown Artway***, a colorful oasis of nine public art installations.

*Outdoor seating available



Explore Marion

- 1 Mocha latte, anyone?** | Marion's first Starbucks opened in 2020. You'll also find **Dunkin' Donuts** and **Scooters** on the west end of 7th Avenue.
- 2 Relax and revitalize** | Escape the hustle and bustle of daily life at **The Sanctuary Spa**. From facials to massage to nail services, enjoy the pampering you deserve. Call to inquire about the spa party concierge service. If someone in your party is in need of a trim (or beard trim), check out **Trims Barber Shop**, which has options for adults and kids.
- 3 Eat some delicious tacos...maybe with a margarita** | **La Cantina's*** friendly staff serve delicious Mexican food, including fajitas, enchiladas, and more. Or, if you're in a hurry, grab a quick sub from **Jersey Mike's**.
- 4 See a film for a great price** | Enjoy the classic way to see a movie – in an actual theater! **Collins Road Theatres** has popcorn with REAL butter!
- 5 Take a snack break** | It's capitalized for a reason...you can't miss **THE chocolate SHOP** in Marion, conveniently located on 7th Ave. A few blocks over, you'll find the home of Iowa's premier popcorn – **Iowa Popcorn Company**.
- 6 Shop for shoes and more** | The Collins Square Shopping Center features a variety of places to shop. Head to **LOFT** and the affordably priced **MODE** boutique if you're looking to freshen up your wardrobe. If shoe shopping is more your thing, check out the high-quality options at **Brown's Shoe Fit**.
- 7 Sushi, Italian, or BBQ, Marion has it all** | Before or after the movie, head next door to **Mandarin Spice Asian Grill**. If you're thinking Italian is more your style, **Napoli's** delicious pasta is just a short jaunt away. Heading back east? Check out **QDogs BBQ** for pork sliders, nachos and more.



Grab your friends for a weekend of fun.

STAYcation

Looking for a vacation somewhere close by?
Marion is the perfect place to spend a relaxing weekend.



DAY 1

1 Find your adventure | Wanatee Park, located on the southeast side of Marion, offers a quiet reprieve from bustle of the metro area. This 700-acre park provides opportunities for picnicking, camping, winter activities, mountain biking, horseback riding and more. It's also home to an off-leash dog park where dogs get to run free and socialize with their canine friends. Or, if it's a hot day, head over to the NE side of town and take a dip in the **Marion pool**. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, check out **Victory Sports Center**, which offers an America-Ninja-Warrior-style competitive obstacle course.

2 Grab a bite to eat | Pasta from **Zio Johnno's*** is the perfect fuel for your action-packed weekend. Craving tacos instead? Local favorite **Villa's Patio*** has options kids will love plus margaritas for the adults. If you're thinking pizza, skip the typical and head to **Tomaso's**.

3 Kick back at a concert or movie | Marion loves music. Check the schedules for live entertainment at **Lowe Park**. If you'd rather stay cool, **Collins Road Theatres** has affordable movie tickets and the classic movie theater popcorn – served with real butter – that you've been craving.

DAY 2

1 Head to the game | Got a game to attend? Enjoy your time at the scenic **Prospect Meadows fields**. If you have time before or after, make a pit stop at **D-Bat Marion**, a 20,000 square-foot training facility featuring indoor batting cages for all levels of baseball and softball, instruction, and a fully stocked pro shop.

2 Grab a bite to eat | You can't go wrong no matter where you choose to eat in Marion. Park your bike and grab a burger at **Short's Burger and Shine*** or get a fast-fired pizza at **Your Pie**.

3 Bike here, bike there, bike everywhere! | From Marion, you can go anywhere. The Linn County Trails Association offers maps of the conveniently located trails in the area, including options for short and long rides. If you head east on the **Grant Wood Trail**, be sure to make a pit stop at **Waldo's Rock Park**. The pond is stocked and open for fishing.

4 Golf or disc golf – for newbies and pros alike | After lunch, head over to **Legion Park** for some disc golf. The 18-hole course is in a secluded, natural setting with alternating open and wooded holes, and the winding creek adds to the challenge. Looking for a tee time? Visit **Hunters Ridge Golf Course** for some practice at the driving range or 18 holes of bentgrass golf. Semiprivate golf course **Indian Creek Country Club** is another great option for a 9-hole round. Or, enjoy the rolling terrain and fairways at **Gardner Golf Course**.

5 Try something new | Opened in 2019, **Nara Thai Cuisine** has incredible noodle and rice dishes and the biggest crab rangoons we've ever seen. Looking for classic Chinese food? Family-owned **China King** sends delicious smells throughout Uptown every day. If you're looking to feed the entire team, consider the brand-new **Pizza Ranch FunZone Arcade** or the casual vibe and Tex-Mex cuisine at **Carlos O'Kelly's**, a popular chain that was born in Marion, Iowa.

You're definitely going to need some ice cream after your full day, and you can't go wrong with a treat from **The Freeze**, **Parlor City*** or **Scoopski's Uptown Creamery***. If frozen custard is more your style, make your way to **Culver's*** for the flavor of the day.

For more information about Marion's commitment to healthy living, visit the Be Well Marion page on cityofmarion.org.



FRIDAY

1 Bring out your inner foodie | **Bistro 3 Nineteen** is the perfect place to kick off a relaxing weekend. If you're craving tzatziki sauce on Friday evening, head to **New York Gyro**. With huge portions and mouthwatering sandwiches, this new restaurant is the buzz of the town.

2 Stay in top-rated hotels | Get a good night's rest at the brand-new **TownPlace Suites by Marriott**, featuring outdoor areas for grilling and socializing. Or head to the **Best Western Plus Longbranch Hotel**, featuring trivia nights that attract locals and visitors alike.

SATURDAY

3 Visit charming coffee shops | Start your Saturday off right with generous portions and an extensive menu at **Riley's Cafe**, one of Marion's newest diners. Or, head over to **Mr. Beans*** and enjoy fresh-brewed coffee and homemade breakfast pizza, sandwiches or pastries.

4 Experience art | Be sure to visit the **Art Gallery at Lowe Park**, featuring work by local artists. On a nice day, there's nothing better than heading outside to take a stroll on the trails at Lowe, which feature stunning sculptures.

5 Unique Finds | Look no further than **SCOUT of Marion** for unique gifts, this boutique gift shop that offers a curated collection of quality home goods, personal care, pantry and pet items. **The Shops at West End** also feature one-of-a-kind gifts like home décor, handmade jewelry from vintage flatware and adorable baby clothing and accessories. Or, get lost in the natural beauty and stunning designs of **Culver's Garden Center and Greenhouse**, featuring a full-service nursery and garden center in addition to clothing, décor and gourmet foods.

6 Satisfy your appetite | Slow down for home-cooked food at **West End Diner***. If you decide to head to **Goldfinch Tap + Eatery**, don't miss the Finch Fries, which are covered in cheese and bacon.

7 Kick back and enjoy a play | Be sure to check out the **Giving Tree Theater** schedule so you can catch a local theatre production. As you leave the theater, you'll see the subtle glow of the Uptown Artway, a revitalized alley that features nine public art installations and open-air pedestrian space. Grab a nightcap at the **Uptown Snug** or **Brick Alley Pub*** and enjoy it in the Artway.

*Outdoor seating available

